

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**A Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 19-61 (cancelled).

62. (new): A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising:
- a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or
  - a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or
  - a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
63. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18.
64. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
65. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 64, wherein said protein corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana* further comprises atSRp30 activity, when overexpressed, to a truncated mRNA-isoform of an atSRp34/SR1 protein.

66. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
67. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 66, wherein the nucleic acid molecule binds to the nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18, or is complementary thereto, under stringent conditions.
68. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 67, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a splice protein active in plants.
69. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid molecule is comprised in an expression vector.
70. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 69, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
71. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 70, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
72. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 71, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
73. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a cell.
74. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 73, wherein the cell is a plant cell.
75. (new): The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 62, wherein the recombinant nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a plant.

76. (new): A recombinant vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule including:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
77. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 76, wherein the vector is biologically functional.
78. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 76, further comprising a promoter.
79. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 78, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
80. (new): The recombinant vector of claim 79, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
81. (new): A transgenic plant or plant cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule including:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18, or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.

82. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 81, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.
83. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 82, wherein the vector is an expression vector.
84. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 83, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
85. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 84, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
86. (new): The transgenic plant or plant cell of claim 85, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
87. (new): A method of changing the splicing properties of a plant or a plant cell comprising using a nucleic acid molecule that comprises:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
88. (new): The method of claim 87, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.
89. (new): The method of claim 88, wherein the vector is an expression vector.

90. (new): The method of claim 89, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
91. (new): The method of claim 90, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
92. (new): The method of claim 91, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.
93. (new): A method of changing the development behavior of a plant or a plant cell comprising using a nucleic acid molecule that comprises:  
a nucleic acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:18; or  
a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein having splicing factor activity in plants, said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or comprising more than 90% identity with the sequence of the amino acids 1 to 85 and 96 to 222 of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID. NO:19, or corresponding to or being derived from atSRp30 protein from a plant other than *Arabidopsis thaliana*; or  
a nucleic acid sequence which binds to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:18 or its complement thereof.
94. (new): The method of claim 93, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.
95. (new): The method of claim 94, wherein said change of said development behavior is a retardation of flower formation.
96. (new): The method of claim 95, wherein said flower formation is retarded by at least 15% relative to a wild-type of said plant.
97. (new): The method of claim 96, wherein said flower formation is retarded by at least 25% relative to a wild-type of said plant.
98. (new): The method of claim 93, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is comprised in a vector.

99. (new): The method of claim 98, wherein the vector is an expression vector.
100. (new): The method of claim 99, wherein the expression vector comprises a promoter.
101. (new): The method of claim 100, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.
102. (new): The method of claim 101, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is under the control of the inducible promoter.

### **A Response to the Restriction Requirement:**

#### **A. Status of the Claims**

Claims 19-61 were pending at the time the Restriction Requirement dated October 3, 2003 was mailed to Applicants. Claims 19-61 have been cancelled and claims 62-102 have been added. Support for new claims 62-102 can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Claims 62-102, therefore, are currently pending.

#### **B. Response to the Restriction Requirement**

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect, without traverse, the Group III invention, as exemplified by claims 23-24, 30-35, 39-40, 43-44, 47-48, 51-52, 55-56, and 59-60. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected inventions in future divisional applications.

Applicants note that new claims 62-102 correspond to the claims identified in the Group III invention. Specifically, new claims 62-75 correspond to cancelled independent claim 23. New claims 76-80 correspond to cancelled independent claim 24. New claims 81-86 correspond to cancelled independent claims 31 and 34. New claims 87-92 correspond to cancelled independent claim 43. New claims 93-102 correspond to cancelled claims 47, 51, 55, and 59.

In view of the fact that all of the newly added claims, claims 62-102, correspond to a cancelled claim in the Group III invention, a further restriction requirement is not necessary. As such, Applicants request that the newly added claims be considered for further prosecution in this case.

#### **C. Conclusion**

Applicants believe that the present document is a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated October 3, 2003. In conclusion, Applicants submit that, in light

of the foregoing remarks, the present case is in condition for further prosecution, and such favorable action is requested.